

**TWO NEW SPECIES OF *AGERATINA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM MEXICO**

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**ABSTRACT**

Two new species of *Ageratina* are described from México: *A. ayerscottiana* B.L. Turner, from the vicinity of Basaseachi, Chihuahua; and *A. miahuatlana* from Oaxaca. The former belongs to the subgenus *Neogreenella* and relates to *A. petiolaris*; the latter belongs to the subgenus *Ageratina* and relates to *A. viscosissima*. A map showing the distribution of *A. ayerscottiana* and *A. petiolaris* is provided.

**KEY WORDS:** Asteraceae, Eupatorieae, *Ageratina*, Mexico, Chihuahua, Oaxaca, systematics

The genus *Ageratina* is a segregate from *Eupatorium* (s.l.). It is a large highly variable complex in Mexico, 110 or more species currently recognized (*cf.* Turner & Nesom 1993). The present account, along with others described since the 1993 survey, adds two additional species, bringing to ca. 125 the number currently recognized for México (Turner 1996).

***AGERATINA AYERSCOTTIANA*** B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Chihuahua: 1 mi N. of Maguarachi, ca. 22 mi S of junction with Basaseachi-San Juanito road, "steep S-facing cliff in drainage," ca. 6000 ft, May 1984, *T.J. Ayers 399*, with *R. Scott* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!)

Similis *A. petiolaris* (DC.) R.M. King & H. Rob. sed foliis parvioribus cum venatione valde elevata et sine trichomatibus glandulosis.

Suffruticose herbs or shrublets. Young stems densely hirsute with white eglandular hairs. Leaves opposite throughout; uppermost leaves thick and strongly venose beneath; petioles 10-15 mm long; blades neatly cordate, 2-3 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, 3-5 nervate from the base, densely hirsute above and below with eglandular hairs, the surfaces densely atomiferous-glandular, the margins crenulate. Heads terminal, arranged 30-100 in rounded corymbose capitulescences, the ultimate peduncles mostly 5-15 mm long. Involucres campanulate, 5-6 mm high, ca. 10 mm

wide (pressed); bracts linear-lanceolate in ca. 2 series, pubescent with eglandular hairs, the surfaces atomiferous-glandular. Receptacles convex, ca. 4 mm across, 1.5 mm high, glabrous. Disk florets 50 or more (est.); corollas white, 4-5 mm long, glabrous; tubes ca. 2 mm long; lobes ca. 0.5 mm long, atomiferous-glandular, but without hairs. Achenes ca. 3 mm long, hispidulous; the pappus of ca. 20 barbellate bristles 5 mm long in a single series.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: MEXICO. Chihuahua: just E of Maguarachi on road between Basaseachi and San Juanito, headwaters of the Río Oteros, "steep sided mountain slopes in narrow arroyo," 17 May 1984, *Lavin 5427* (TEX), with *R. Scott et al.*

This taxon belongs to the subgenus *Neogreenella* (*sensu* King & Robinson 1987), superficially resembling *Ageratina petiolaris* (DC.) King & H. Rob. It is amply distinct from the latter by a number of characters, most notably through the absence of glandular trichomes, and by the seemingly smaller, thicker more venous leaves. I retained such plants under my concept of *A. petiolaris* for several years, but closer inspection has suggested that these are deserving of specific status. The distributional relationship of *A. ayerscottiana* and *A. petiolaris* is shown in Figure 1.

It is a pleasure to name this isolated species in honor of Dr. Tina Ayers and her husband Dr. Randy Scott, both having participated in the collection of the only two specimens known to me. Tina and Randy obtained their doctorates under my direction, and are currently located at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. Their wedded name also appears on one other Mexican species, *Wedelia ayerscottiana* B.L. Turner.

**AGERATINA MIAHUATLANA** B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Distrito Miahuatlán, Quiexobra, 3050 m, 22 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al. 26304* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!).

Similis *A. viscosissimae* (Rolfe) R.M. King & H. Rob. sed involucris majoribus (10-12 mm altis vice 6-8 mm altis) et setis papporum pluribus (ca. 30 vice 10-15).

Suffruticose herbs or shrublets 0.5-1.2 m high. Midstems 3-5 mm across, densely pubescent with a vestiture of glandular trichomes ca. 0.25 mm high. Leaves opposite throughout, but occasionally the uppermost alternate; those at midstem mostly cordate; petioles 2-3 cm long; blades 5-7 cm long, 4-7 cm wide, thin, 3-nervate from the base, moderately to sparsely pubescent above and below, the margins crenulodentate. Heads arranged in relatively loose terminal cymes, the ultimate peduncles mostly 1-3 cm long, pubescent like the stems. Involucres campanulate, 11-12 mm high; bracts linear-lanceolate, 2-3 seriate, subequal, glandular-pubescent, the apices narrowly acute. Florets 20-30 per head (est.); corollas white, 6-7 mm long, glabrous except for the sparsely pilose lobes. Achenes (immature) ca. 3 mm long, hispidulous; pappus of ca. 30 readily deciduous white bristles ca. 6 mm long.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS EXAMINED: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Distrito Miahuatlán, Xianaguilla, 2715 m, 13 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al. 26062* (TEX); Siete Ocotes, 2950 m, 20 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al. 26258* (TEX).

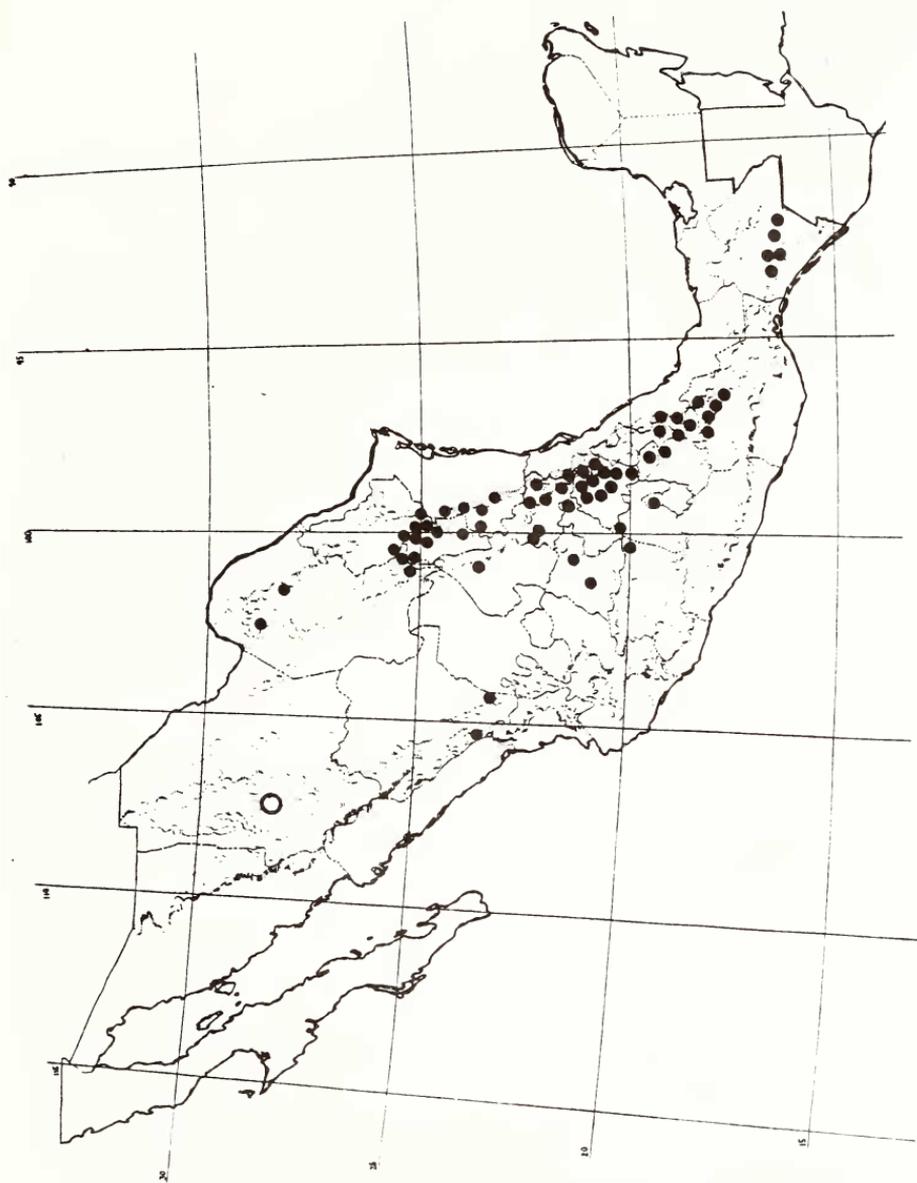


Figure 1. Distribution of *Ageratina petiolaris* (closed circles) and *A. ayerscottiana* (open circle). Based upon specimens at LL, TEX.

*Ageratina miahuatlana* relates to a group of species with large heads and glandular - pubescent foliage centering about *A. viscosissima* (Rolfe) King & H. Rob. The latter occurs in northwestern México and belongs to the subgenus *Ageratina* (sensu King & Robinson 1987). It differs from the latter in having leaves with shorter petioles and larger heads, the involucre 10-12 mm long (vs. 6-8 mm long), and pappus of more numerous bristles (ca. 30 vs. 10-15).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Gayle Turner for the Latin diagnoses, and to her and Justin Williams for reviewing the paper.

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